

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS – ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS (API) MANUFACTURING UNIT OF M/S. IPCA LABORATORIES LIMITED, VILL.HINGNI, TAL.SELOO, DIST-WARDHA DTD. 18/09/2025.

As per Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 amended notification dated 1.12.2009. M/s. IPCA Laboratories Limited has applied for Environmental Public Hearing in respect of proposed expansion of Synthetic Organic Chemicals – Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) Manufacturing unit. The Public Hearing was held at Project site M/s. IPCA Laboratories Limited, Village-Hingni, Tal. Seloo, Dist-Wardha under the Chairmanship of Shri. Narendra Fulzele, Additional District Magistrate, Wardha. Smt. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur attended as a member of the public hearing panel, and Shri. Sushilkumar Rathod, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur-II as a convener. The Public Hearing started at 11.00 a.m. with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the citizens present during the Public Hearing is attached as **Annexure-I.**

BACKGROUND:

M/s. IPCA Laboratories Limited submitted a request with Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for expansion of Synthetic Organic Chemicals – Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) Manufacturing unit through email dtd.02/07/2025 to MPCB(HQ), Mumbai. In view of this request MPCB (HQ) directed to initiate the process for public hearing vide letter No.MPCB/JD)WPC)/ENV-PH/B-250707-FTS-0099 dtd.07/07/2025 **Annexure-II.**

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

Public Hearing procedure was initiated with the permission of Chairman of Public Hearing panel. The Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-II welcomed the Chairman and Member of the public hearing panel, local citizens and others.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-II informed that, the Public Hearing is conducted for recording the views/objects/suggestions of the participants regarding the project, and the same will be communicated as it is to the Government. SRO also clarified that this panel is not here to take decision regarding accordance of approval to the project and appealed the participants to express their views and suggestions orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-II explained the purpose of conducting this public hearing and that as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification SO 60(E) of 27th January, 1994 and amended on 14th September, 2006 notices for the public hearing were published in local widely circulated Newspapers i.e. the 'Hitavada' (English) and 'Sakal' (Marathi) on 09/05/2025. Copies of the same are enclosed as **Annexure-III.**

Copies of the Environment Impact Assessment & Executive Summary containing salient features of the project in English & Marathi and other information/documents were made available to the public before 30 days in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayats as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of the publication of the notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-60/2025 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-250813-FTS-0270 dtd. 13/08/2025. Copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-IV.** One online suggestion through email was received to MPCB in the notice period. Copy enclosed as **Annexure-V.**

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, Nagpur-II and Convener requested the project proponent to give the detail presentation about the project. Accordingly, representative of the project proponent gave detailed power point presentation of the project in Marathi language. Project proponent explained regarding project location, benefits of proposed project, proposed facilities, fire-fighting facilities, manufacturing process description, description of environment and identification of anticipated impact, Land environment, climate and meteorology, Air Environment, existing water quality, water consumption, biological environment, socio-economic environment, impact on local infrastructure, environment management plan, air emission, preventive maintenance / inspection etc.

After the presentation Sub-Regional Officer & Convener Shri. Sushilkumar Rathod requested the citizens to express their views, comments, concern & suggestion after mentioning their name & name of the village.

FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC HEARING AND RAISED QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS. THE DETAILS ARE GIVEN BELOW:

1) Shri.Aditya Munje, Hingni, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	The project proponent shall provide detailed information about water and air pollution aspects of the proposed project. Also, disposal path of generated hazardous waste.	For water pollution abatement, the project has set up an effluent treatment plant with a capacity of 600 CMD and a multi evaporation system (MEE) with a capacity of 150 CMD to achieve zero liquid discharge (ZLD). Industrial effluent generated from the project will be reused in the process, in cooling towers, for gardening purpose and rest will be evaporated in MEE. No industrial effluent will be discharged outside the project.
2.	Since this project is located near the Bor River, there is a possibility of river pollution due to contamination by pollutants generated from the project. Hence, detailed information about the pollution control systems shall be provided.	As of today, we have completed plantation of 6000 trees. Currently, only trials are underway in the project, and the project is yet to be fully operational.
3.	Not a single person from Hingni village has received employment in this project. Employment should be provided to the locals from the area. Also, the project should be beneficial for the local public and the villages in the surrounding area.	At present, 32 citizens from Hingni village, 06 citizens from Mohi village and 11 citizens from Ghorad village have been employed out of a total workforce of 137. The project has provided employment to citizens from 48 nearby villages.
4.	Water and air pollution due to operation of the project will cause hardship to the residents of Hingni and will reduce agricultural income.	Scrubbers will be provided as air pollution control system for abatement of air pollution. Acoustic enclosure will be provided to control noise pollution, and the noise pollution levels will be much lower than the prescribed standards.

2) Smt. Damani Dekate, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat, Hingni, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	She welcomed the proposed project on behalf of Gram Panchayat and extended her best wishes.	Point noted.
2.	A lot of local citizens have submitted resumes for employment in this project. The company shall provide a detailed presentation detailing how many people from these villages and surrounding areas have been employed.	At present, 32 citizens from Hingni village, 06 citizens from Mohi village and 11 citizens from Ghorad village have been employed out of a total workforce of 137. The project has provided employment to citizens from 48 nearby villages.
3.	At present, there is no adverse effect on the environment due to operation of the company. However, information shall be provided on measures that will be taken to prevent any adverse impact on the environment in the future.	For water pollution abatement, the project has set up an effluent treatment plant with a capacity of 600 CMD and a multi evaporation system (MEE) with a capacity of 150 CMD to achieve zero liquid discharge (ZLD). Scrubbers will be provided as air pollution control system for abatement of air pollution.

3) Shri. Amar Dhote, Sarpanch, Group Grampanchayat, Kinhi/Mohi/Brahmani, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Please clarify whether this project will have an adverse impact on local businesses.	There will be no adverse impact on local businesses.
2.	Please provide information about the adverse impact of this project on health of the locals. Also, the project should provide employment to the locals.	There will be no impact on the health of the locals.

4) Shri. Manohar Kokle, Hingni, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	My farmland is adjacent to the company on the other side of the road. The crops have been damaged due to water entering the farm from the company premises.	A labor camp for contractor's workers is setup on one acre plot in front of the company and the domestic sewage generated from the camp is flowing into the farm. The issue will be taken care of in the next 8 days.

5) Shri. Arvind Chafale, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat, Juwadi, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	This is a pharmaceutical/API unit. Please provide information about the mechanism for disposal of expired medicines / chemicals.	The Hazardous Waste generated from the project will be sent to the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (CHWTSDF), MIDC Butibori. A membership of M/s Maharashtra Enviro Power Limited is already obtained for the same.

2.	Bor Sanctuary and Bor River are situated adjacent to the project. Many villages have drinking water sources on the river. If the effluent/hazardous waste generated from the project is discharged in the river, the drinking water will get contaminated. What treatment will be done on the generated industrial effluent?	The project will not cause any adverse impact on Bor river and Bor Sanctuary. Every possible measures will be taken to avoid pollution of Bor River.
3.	What measures will be taken to ensure that the pollution from the project does not have a harmful impact on the villagers, animals and the environment?	
4.	Unemployment issue is acute in the nearby villages. What are the measures to ensure employment will be provided to locals?	At present, 32 citizens from Hingni village, 06 citizens from Mohi village and 11 citizens from Ghorad village have been employed out of a total workforce of 137. The project has provided employment to citizens from 48 nearby villages.
5.	The project provides employment to outsiders. What should be done if locals do not get employment?	Government's Apprentice scheme is implemented in the company. Under this scheme, ITI qualified candidates will be provided with paid training for one year. After the completion of training, an exam will be conducted, and the qualified candidates will be given employment. This project requires technical manpower such as B.Tech/M.Tech (Chemical), B.Sc/M.Sc (Chemistry), Diploma in Chemical Engineering etc. A batch of trainees is already recruited and are working as full time professionals.

6) Shri. Raju Yadavrao Lidve, Zads, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	The operation of the company shall be as per prescribed norms. Maximum employment should be provided to the youths from Selu Taluka.	At present, 32 citizens from Hingni village, 06 citizens from Mohi village and 11 citizens from Ghorad village have been employed out of a total workforce of 137. The project has provided employment to citizens from 48 nearby villages.

7) Shri. Pawan Dharne, Hingni, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Buffer zone of the Bor Sanctuary is located adjacent to the company premises and it will affect wildlife. What are the measures taken for this?	The project will not cause any adverse impact on Bor river and Bor Sanctuary. Every possible measures will be taken to avoid pollution of Bor River.
2.	The natural drain flowing from the project meets the Bor River. If the industrial effluent generated by the company is discharged, it will pollute Bor river. What are the measures to be taken for this?	
3.	The Environmental Assessment Report does not provide any information about the Tiger Corridor. Since a large part of the Bor Sanctuary falls in Selu taluka, information should be provided about the impact it will have on wildlife.	This project is located at a distance of 3.973 km from the Tiger Corridor. The approval from the Forest Department has been taken for the same. There are two hills of 400 acre area in the project premises. The natural forest on the hills will be protected.

8) Shri. Roshan Raut, Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	The project proponent informed in the presentation about the employment of 137 locals in the existing project. Priority should be given to locals in employment.	At present, 32 citizens from Hingni village, 06 citizens from Mohi village and 11 citizens from Ghorad village have been employed out of a total workforce of 137. The project has provided employment to citizens from 48 nearby villages.
2.	The company should set up an office for employment guidance at the taluka level, so that it would be convenient to provide information to all the youth in the taluka.	The company management has enquired about a possible tie-up with 3 colleges in Wardha district and 3 colleges in Nagpur district for technical training to local people.
3.	I expect that biomass briquettes will be used as fuel in the boiler as mentioned in the presentation and coal will not be used.	Coal will not be used as fuel in the boiler. Napier grass will be grown in the project premises and biomass briquettes made from this grass will be used as fuel. Also, soybean husks, cotton parati, etc. will be purchased from farmers in the area and used for manufacturing biomass briquettes. A 16 MW solar power plant will also be set up within the project area.

4.	Former Noble Explochem Company had acquired the land of the locals. Hence, priority should be given to the project affected people in employment based on their educational qualifications.	The former Noble Explochem company manufactured explosives, and the current project is a pharmaceutical manufacturing unit. Since these two projects are in different fields, the skill criteria required in these projects are different. Government's Apprentice scheme is implemented in the company. Under this scheme, ITI qualified candidates will be provided with paid training for one year. After the completion of training, an exam will be conducted, and the qualified candidates will be given employment. This project requires technical manpower such as B.Tech/M.Tech (Chemical), B.Sc/M.Sc (Chemistry), Diploma in Chemical Engineering etc. A batch of trainees is already recruited and are working as full time professionals.
5.	Project proponent should ensure that farmers are not adversely impacted due to water pollution by the project.	A zero liquid discharge system (ZLD) has been set up in the project to prevent water pollution.

9) Shri. Rahul Pokale, Hingni, Tal-Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	A description of the components emitted from the company's stack should be provided. A description of the minimum levels at which these components will have an adverse effect on human health should be provided.	Scrubbers will be provided as air pollution control system for abatement of air pollution.
2.	Project Proponent stated in the presentation that a zero liquid discharge system (ZLD) would be installed. However, if wastewater is discharged outside premises, details of the wastewater component should be provided. A minimum level at which components in wastewater will have an adverse effect on human health should be provided.	For water pollution abatement, the project has set up an effluent treatment plant with a capacity of 600 CMD and a multi evaporation system (MEE) with a capacity of 150 CMD to achieve zero liquid discharge (ZLD). Industrial effluent generated from the project will be reused in the process, in cooling towers, for gardening purposes and rest will be evaporated in MEE. No industrial effluent will be discharged outside the project.

10) Shri. Roshan Dutkhor, Ex-Sarpanch, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Locals are not given priority for employment. Employment should be given according to educational qualifications.	Government's Apprentice scheme is implemented in the company. Under this scheme, ITI qualified candidates will be provided with paid training for one year. After the completion of training, an exam will be conducted, and the qualified candidates will be given employment. This project requires technical manpower such as B.Tech/M.Tech (Chemical), B.Sc/M.Sc (Chemistry), Diploma in Chemical Engineering etc. A batch of trainees is already recruited and are working as full time professionals.
2.	What are the objectives of the company? Selu Taluka is an agrarian area. What will be the impact of the company on agriculture? This is the biggest industry in this taluka and the locals should be benefited due to the company.	There will be no adverse impact on agriculture due to operations of the company.

11) Shri. Sunanda Reddy,

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Extended support to the project. There will be generation of employment. Company should focus on controlling pollution. Trees should be planted in the area on a large scale and rainwater harvesting system should be set up. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds should be utilized for the villages. Training centers should be set up for skill development for employment. Zero Liquid Discharge system and latest technology should be used for control of water and air pollution. Recommended the project for approval without any terms and conditions.	Under CSR, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Gram Panchayat for the scientific disposal of Municipal Solid Waste in Hingni village. Wet and dry waste will be segregated and wet waste will be converted to compost and dry waste will be sold to recyclers. 10000 tree plantation will be done in the project area. Out of which 6000 tree plantations is already carried out. A nursery has been set up in the project and Neem and Karanja trees will be planted. Tree plantation is also carried out on the land designated by the Gram Panchayat and maintenance of the trees will also be done by the company.

12) Shri. Mangesh Kale, Hingni, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Water supply to the project will be done from the Bor Dam. It should be clarified through which medium the water will be supplied, through pipeline or through the river/canal. Beautification of Bor river should be done.	There are two sources of water supply. Open wells in the premises and water from Bor dam. Approval from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is obtained for withdrawal of water from open wells.
2.	The water supply to agriculture is decreased as the company is supplied water through a canal from the Nanbardi Dam.	A proposal is submitted to the Irrigation Department for water supply from the Bor Dam and if approved, water will be supplied through pipeline. However, the water from the Bor Dam is not used yet.
3.	Project affected people from the former Noble Explochem should be given first priority in employment.	The former Noble Explochem company manufactured explosives, and the current project is a pharmaceutical manufacturing unit. Since these two projects are in different fields, the skill criteria required in these projects are different. Government's Apprentice scheme is implemented in the company. Under this scheme, ITI qualified candidates will be provided with paid training for one year. After the completion of training, an exam will be conducted, and the qualified candidates will be given employment.

13) Shri. Vikas Motamwar, Ghorad, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	For employment Vadgaon (Kala) and Vadgaon (Khurd) villages should also be included in 10 kms radius.	Point noted.

14) Smt. Neeta Sarvare, Salai-Pevat, Tal-Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Not a single person from nearby villages has got employment in this project. Employment should be provided to the unemployed youth in the villages.	At present, 32 citizens from Hingni village, 06 citizens from Mohi village and 11 citizens from Ghorad village have been employed out of a total workforce of 137. The project has provided employment to citizens from 48 nearby villages.

15) Shri. Archit Nigade, Hingni, Tal-Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	My farm is adjacent to the project and was previously affected by the effluent generated from Noble Explochem. The previous company's effluent has contaminated the well water and made it unfit for drinking.	For water pollution abatement, the project has set up an effluent treatment plant with a capacity of 600 CMD and a multi evaporation system (MEE) with a capacity of 150 CMD to achieve zero liquid discharge (ZLD). Industrial effluent generated from the project will be reused in the process, in cooling towers, for gardening purposes and rest will be evaporated in MEE. No industrial effluent will be discharged outside the project.
2.	When applied for employment in the project the form was rejected due to lack of qualifications and experience. Skill development program should be implemented by the company for employment.	Government's Apprentice scheme is implemented in the company. Under this scheme, ITI qualified candidates will be provided with paid training for one year. After the completion of training, an exam will be conducted, and the qualified candidates will be given employment. This project requires technical manpower such as B.Tech/M.Tech (Chemical), B.Sc/M.Sc (Chemistry), Diploma in Chemical Engineering etc. A batch of trainees is already recruited and are working as full time professionals.

16) Shri. Praful, Khode, Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	In this project, villages within 10 km radius are included for employment. Instead, the entire Selu taluka should be considered. A coordination committee should be set up at the local level for facilitation of employment.	Point noted.

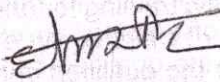
17) Shri. Nilesh Atkare, Hingni, Tal.Selu, Dist-Wardha.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Please provide information about what kind of medicines will be produced in this project.	Active pharmaceutical ingredients and intermediates etc. will be manufactured in the proposed unit.
2.	Wells in the region are affected by the effluent generated from Noble Explochem.	For water pollution abatement, the project has set up an effluent treatment plant with a capacity of 600 CMD and a multi evaporation system (MEE) with a capacity of 150 CMD to achieve zero liquid discharge (ZLD).

Shri. Narendra Fulzele, Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Wardha.

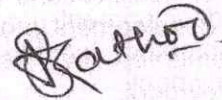
He explained the purpose and procedure of Public Hearing. Accordingly, it was clarified that no decision regarding permission for the project will be taken by the Public Hearing Committee. The issues suggested by the citizens both orally and in writing as well as the responses given by the project proponent have been recorded and the same will be communicated to the Government. The project is welcome, but the project should lead to social and economic development of the area. The project proponent should focus on skill development, social development, education and health of the people in the region.

The Hon'ble Chairman thanked everyone and declared that the public hearing is over.



(Hema Deshpande)

Member of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur



(Sushilkumar Rathod)

Convener of the Public Hearing Panel
and

Sub-Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur-II.



(Narendra Fulzele)

Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Additional District Magistrates, Wardha.